

In the Claims

The claims as most recently amended in Applicant's Amendment and Response mailed March 7, 2005:

1. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least one layer of tufted material located between at least two outer layers of non-woven material wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers and wherein the at least one layer of tufted material is one layer of a bi-layer structure, the bi-layer structure also comprising one of the at least two outer layers of non-woven material.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The nonwoven laminate of claim [[2]] 1 wherein the tufted material is comprised of polymer and the non-woven material is coform.

4. (Original) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein the non-woven material is a non-woven absorbent material.

5. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least two layers of tufted material oriented inwardly to produce an ~~inner-tufted~~ internally tufted laminate, wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two layers.

6. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein at least one of the at least two layers of tufted material has a bi-layer structure.

7. (Original) The laminate of claim 6 wherein each bi-layer structure comprises the

tufted material and an outer layer of nonwoven composite material.

8. (Original) The laminate of claim 7 wherein the nonwoven composite material is coform.

9. (Original) The laminate of claim 8 wherein the tufted material is a wire-tufted material comprised primarily of meltblown polymer.

10. (Original) The laminate of claim 9 wherein the meltblown polymer is a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene polybutylene, copolymers, and mixtures and blends thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The laminate of claim 5 wherein the at least two ~~inner~~ layers are thermally bondable.

12. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

13. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about one (1) mm in length.

14. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

15. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

16. (Currently Amended) An internally ~~wire-tufted~~ tufted laminate comprising:
at least two coform outer layers surrounding an inner layer of tufted meltblown material,

the inner layer having a plurality of inner tufts and valleys and a plurality of outer depressions, the outer depressions visible from an exterior surface of the laminate wherein the internally ~~wire-tufted~~ tufted laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers.

17. (Currently Amended) The internally ~~wire-tufted~~ tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the tufted meltblown material is bondable at each tuft.

18. (Currently Amended) The internally ~~wire-tufted~~ tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the inner layer of tufted meltblown material is comprised of a first layer of tufted material and a second layer of tufted material, each layer having the plurality of inner tufts and valleys and the plurality of outer depressions, further wherein the plurality of inner tufts of the first layer face the plurality of inner tufts of the second layer.

19. (Currently Amended) The internally ~~wire-tufted~~ tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the plurality of inner tufts are projections configured to form an identifiable pattern.

20. (Currently Amended) The internally ~~wire-tufted~~ tufted laminate of claim 19 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

21. (Currently Amended) The internally ~~wire-tufted~~ tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the laminate is a disposable product selected from the group consisting of diaper, tissue, towel, wipe and any component or portion of a diaper, tissue, towel or wipe.

22. (Currently Amended) An absorbent sheet comprising:
an internally tufted laminate having at least two layers of tufted material oriented inwardly, the at least two layers of tufted material located between at least two outer layers, wherein the absorbent sheet does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers; and

an added liquid.

23. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the added liquid is selected from the group consisting of water, emollients, surfactants, fragrances, preservatives, chelating agents, pH buffers and combinations thereof.

24. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 23 further comprising additives selected from the group consisting of lotions, medicaments, and combinations thereof.

25. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the absorbent sheet is a personal care wet wipe.

26. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 23 wherein the sheet is disposable.

27. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the internally tufted laminate is comprised of individual tufts.

28. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 27 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

29. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 27 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about one (1) mm in length.

30. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 27 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

31. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 27 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

32. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the internally tufted laminate is comprised of a plurality of inner projections configured to form an identifiable pattern.

33. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 32 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

34-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least two layers of tufted material oriented inwardly to produce an ~~inner~~ internally tufted laminate, wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about one (1) mm in length.

51. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

52. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

53. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

54. (Currently Amended) An absorbent sheet comprising:
an internally tufted laminate comprised of individual tufts located on at least two layers of material, wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring between at least about one (1) mm in length and the at least two layers of material are oriented inwardly; and
an added liquid.

55. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft

is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

56. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

57. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

58. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein the internally tufted laminate is comprised of a plurality of inner projections configured to form an identifiable pattern.

59. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 58 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

60. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

61. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven laminate of claim 5 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

62. (Currently Amended) The internally ~~wire-tufted~~ tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

63. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

Please add the following new claims:

64. (New) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein there are two outer layers and two layers of tufted material forming two bi-layer structures, wherein each bi-layer structure comprises one of the two layers of the tufted material and one of two outer layers.

65. (New) A nonwoven laminate comprising two layers of tufted material oriented towards each other to produce an internally tufted laminate, wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the two layers.

66. (New) The laminate of claim 65 wherein at least one of the two layers of tufted material has a bi-layer structure.

67. (New) The laminate of claim 66 wherein each bi-layer structure comprises the tufted material and an outer layer of nonwoven composite material.

68. (New) The laminate of claim 67 wherein the nonwoven composite material is coform.

69. (New) The laminate of claim 68 wherein the tufted material is a wire-tufted material comprised primarily of meltblown polymer.

70. (New) The laminate of claim 69 wherein the meltblown polymer is a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene polybutylene, copolymers, and mixtures and blends thereof.

71. (New) The laminate of claim 65 wherein the two layers are thermally bondable.

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANT AMENDMENT

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72. (New) The laminate of claim 65 wherein the two layers of tufted material are located between two outer layers of non-woven material.